

SPOKE

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Nudity not dirty in works of art

A controversy has been brewing in the City of Spokane for the past several years over the proposed placement of a nude statue in the downtown St. George Square. A local Episcopalian minister has been planning to raise about \$200,000 to purchase a bronze statue of a man and woman, holding a child, about as a focal point of Spokane's redevelopment project. Some local organizations, mainly church groups, have been opposed to the statue on grounds that it is indecent.

In December, Spokane City Council thought it had put an end to the controversy when it voted 10-1 to accept the sculptor's plan. However, recently renewed pressure from the same churches, and from the Spokane Historical Society, has made council realize that the vote has not been so decisive.

The opposition is based on the statue's content, format and its placement. "They have a problem from the beginning that nudity, whether it be of the sort seen in news magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse, or of the artistic variety in 'dirt'—they have a problem when it comes to the type of nudity that is acceptable in an urban area, and that any form of nudity will contribute to some sort of moral degradation."

They also argue that the statue would be just as successful and just as beautiful if the figures were clothed. One minister has gone so far as to suggest that it is absurd to have nude figures standing out in the winter cold.

These arguments are based on a misconception. The typical news magazine does present the nude human form in only a way as to demean and offend, and sometimes even devalue human beings. This sort of presentation is indeed harmful, particularly to children who may tend to be more conditioned to view the opposite sex as objects of personal gratification. But the nude images of contemporary artists do not exist in all forms of nudity.

Nearly 500 years ago the great Michelangelo created a nude statue of the infant Jesus David, and that almost 500 years later, that statue has been regarded as one of the greatest masterpieces in the history and dignity of the human form ever created. To even suggest that this statue is somehow contributed to the moral decline of our society or the degradation of our culture is to suggest that Michelangelo has lowered the physical beauty of mankind in such a way as to reflect rather than understate moral excellence.

Masters of art that act against the goal of removing the stigma of pornography from nudity should be displayed with pride, not hidden as dirty art pieces.

Though it may be difficult, opponents of Spokane's statue must try to understand the value of nudity in art. If everyone could be made aware of the beauty and dignity of the nude human form, pornography would profit from the degradation of that dignity would be out of business.

For this reason, Spokane's countryside should be considered for their wisdom in willing to accept the statue from the Episcopalian minister. In so doing they have demonstrated an awareness that the work of art does not justify its subject.

It is to be hoped that a narrow-minded, rural mentality will not be able to overrule a decision to accept the Episcopalian minister's statue from its proposed statue of art.



Progress of nude statue continues despite protest

The building of a bronze and steel statue for St. George's Square in downtown Spokane is continuing on schedule, despite protests by the Episcopalian minister. Councilman Bill Peterson, a vocal proponent of the statue, said that the statue is a work of art, and that it is not a work of pornography. He said that the statue is a work of art, and that it is not a work of pornography.

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Construction supervisor let go due to college budget cutback

Construction supervisor of Spokane's St. George's Square is being let go by the City of Spokane. The supervisor, who has been in charge of the project since it began, is being let go due to budget cuts.

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Music festival holds contemporary electronic recital

David Byrne gave a live, unedited performance in a three-hour "Theory of the City" at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, on Tuesday. The performance was a collaboration between Byrne and the Federal Art Council, which funded the event. Byrne, who is a member of the band Talking Heads, performed with a live band.

The festival featured the work of contemporary artists and musicians, including Byrne. The festival was held at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, which is a non-profit organization. Byrne's performance was a collaboration between him and the Federal Art Council, which funded the event. Byrne, who is a member of the band Talking Heads, performed with a live band.

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How to deal with arrest

Many arrested men for non-payment, and it is a common experience. said Bill Carey, a lawyer who specializes in criminal law. He said that many men are arrested for non-payment of taxes, and that they should seek legal advice.

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Police try open holsters

Open holsters and sighted guns are a common sight in many cities. said Bill Carey, a lawyer who specializes in criminal law. He said that many men are arrested for non-payment of taxes, and that they should seek legal advice.

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